

## CLAIMS

1 1. A method for protecting files distributed over a network, comprising the  
2 steps of:  
3 displaying a list of files;  
4 generating protection status information in response to selection by a user of at  
5 least one of the files in the list of files; and  
6 sending the protection status information to a server computer.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said displaying step displays a list of files  
2 together with a corresponding protection status for each file in the list of files, and  
3 wherein the method further comprises the step of modifying protection status of at least  
4 one of the files, and wherein said sending step sends modified protection status  
5 information to a server computer.

1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising recording the protection status  
2 information in a protection status database.

1 4. A system for protecting files distributed over a network, comprising:  
2 a user interface displaying a list of files;  
3 a protection status manager generating protection status information in response  
4 to selection by a user of at least one of the files in the list of files; and  
5 a transmitter sending the protection status information to a server computer.

1 5. The system of claim 4 wherein said user interface displays a list of files  
2 together with a corresponding protection status for each file in the list of files, and  
3 wherein the protection status manager modifies protection status of at least one of the

4 files, and wherein said transmitter sends modified protection status information to a  
5 server computer.

1           6. The system of claim 4 further comprising a database manager recording the  
2   protection status information in a protection status database.

Year	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	